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**VERITIES OF DETAIL
A STUDY ON USE OF DETAILS IN BUILDINGS, AND
IT'S INVOLVEMENT TO ENHANCE
THE CONCEPT OF THE DESIGN.**



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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
FOR THE FINAL YEAR EXAMINATION
IN M.Sc. (ARCHITECTURE)**

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DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
SRI LANKA
MARCH 2005**

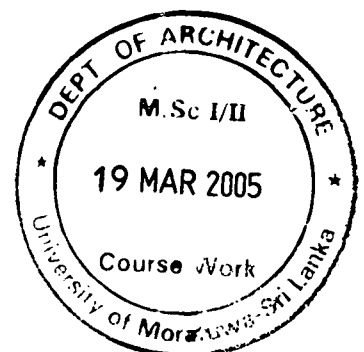
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DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation represents my own work, except where due acknowledgement is made and that it has not been previously included in a thesis, dissertation or report submitted to this university to any other institution for degree, diploma or other qualification


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INTRODUCTION

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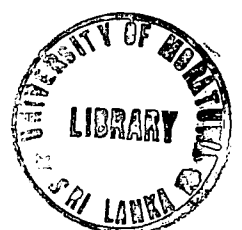


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*"Nothing is quite beautiful alone;
nothing but is beautiful in the whole.
A single object is only so far
beautiful as it suggests this
universal grace.
The poet, the musician,
the architect seek
to concentrate this
radiance of the world on one point"*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Temple in the house



INTRODUCTION

Theme and context

Though, architectural details play a major role through out the history up to date, they are considered as secondary elements in Architecture. In their creations our ancestors used variety of details in their creations for various purposes. Some of the details performing as signs and symbols even in the most primitive societies. This symbol creating function is said to be one of the mankind's primary activities, which developed in to a work of art. Incorporation of details in Architecture adds beauty to the product and performs various functions. Details help the integration of various building elements together and give uniqueness to it while showing ethnicity, culture and the prevailing Architectural style.

Therefore it is prominent that the integration of uniqueness, ethnicity, culture and style together can give an identity to a place or a building, Though the identity of a place, a person perceives the sense of place, The varieties or truths of details acts as the vehicle to create an appropriate ambience for each individual to feel his own identity and to make him belong to that place. Sense of belongingness to a certain place makes oneself a part of his surrounding environment; a part of whole. This phenomenon is called as the concept of authenticity.

Authentic places help a person to become a part of his surroundings, bounding him to the context and to feel that the rest of the world does not exist. Creation of such appropriate detailing according to the perceiver's taste, together with Architect's talents.

But many of modern days architecture lacks his meaningful, appropriate details, catering only towards functional and constructional aspects. Thus making the human being lost, in the modern day building without a sense of place or identity.

Many writers have echoed that modern life is filled with an overwhelming sense of fragmentation and transitoriness. This has created a need in urban man to escape from his every day life, in search of something more real, than today high rise buildings and materialistic life style. This demand has been met with many ways. One way of meeting this demand is the hospitality industry, with their creation of modern day resort hotels. This phenomenon has given rise to a new dimension in architecture.

The tourist industry has created a new niche by marketing what is termed as the concept of authenticity, according to many writers and researchers of Resort hotel trade. This concept is meant to offer tourists a glimpse in to another culture via the resort hotels. Many examples of such can be cited in Sri Lankan context. So that the modern day architect of these resort hotels is confronted with creating a real situation out of exercise which in its extreme form of fantasy. This study intends to focus on how these resorts attempt to achieve this sense of authenticity through architectural details.

The theme of the essay revolves around detailing as an approach to the creation of resort architecture.

Aims and objectives

The main purpose of the study is to identify the use of details, in buildings in order to create an authentic architecture which should be enhanced the concept of the design, with special reference to the architecture of resort hotels. In order to do this, this essay focuses on

- A) A historical perspective on the role of detailing in architectural expression and function.
- B) Develop the concept of authenticity as a guide line for resort architecture, and the role of appropriate detailing in making authentic architecture with rightful expression and function.

The study uses the historical precedents available in Sri Lanka and other cultures as the basis on which to develop the role of detailing in creating a sense of place. Through this notion of place making, the concept of authenticity can be identified. This concept is used in this study, to identify the new trends of resort hotel architecture and the role of detail in achieving the theme or concept using verities of details.

In presenting this the study unfolds in three parts.

- 1) The first part of the essay builds up the frame work for the study. It discusses the role of detailing in creating a particular ambience of expression and function giving authentic experience to the perceiver.
- 2) The second part examines this authentic experience in resort architecture. It discusses about mimicry, reproduction in order to distinguish what is authentic, what is real. How can it be gained through detailing.
- 3) The third part examines examples of the work of Sri Lankan architects to study this phenomenon of authenticity, in terms of architectural detail in resort hotels.

The conclusion discusses detailing as an approach to authentic design in resort architecture.

Scope and limitations.

In the process of design, three stages of detailing could be identified.

- A) The development of details in plan form.
- B) Details in the three dimensional image
- C) The appropriate decorative elements as details.

The aspects of details in plan form and details in the three dimensional image are used to create special relationships that are appropriate to the realizing of a design concept. The detail used as decorative elements intensifies the experiencing of the concept.

These three kinds of details together give one a heightened sense of identify in the authentic place. Finally, the scope of the study covers these three aspects of detail in relation to resort architecture. The limitations of this study are the choice of hotel. Even though variety is sought, these are limited in the time, to those completed within the last ten years. Though impact of detailing in different types of buildings is discussed, the specific area of study is limited to the architecture of resort hotels.

Methodology

This study will be carried out with the analysis of literature facts and by examining the existing building examples. The study will mainly separate in to three parts.

The first will be discussing about the details in architecture. This will consist of the literature facts about architecture and art, history of detailing in architecture and the different of detailing in architecture.

The second part elaborates on resort hotels and the concept of authenticity. Under this section it is further discussed about the leisure industry and the impact of detailing in resort architecture. These will be illustrated with examples.

At the third part verities of detail in resort hotels are discussed with the Sri Lankan examples with illustrations.

The first two parts will be based on literature facts and the third will be on an examination of the selected resort hotels designed by Sri Lankan architects.